

**The Honorable John Barrasso**  
Statement on the War on Western Jobs  
Joint Senate-Congressional Western Caucuses  
July 13th, 2010  
(DRAFT 2)

This is a Joint Senate-House Western Caucus hearing.  
We are focused on the ongoing War on Western jobs being pursued by  
this Administration.

I am Senator John Barrasso, Chairman of the Senate Western Caucus.

I would like to thank Congressman Bishop, the Chairman of the Western  
Caucus on the House side.

He has been a strong leader on Western issues for a long time.

We have two excellent panels of witnesses today.

I would like to welcome Governor Gary Herbert of Utah on panel one.

On panel two we have Congressman Devin Nunes (Nunez) of California, as well as Chris Horner of the Competitive Enterprise Institute and Bill Kovacs with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

We will also hear from county commissioners, small business owners, and ranchers from the West, by way of video clips.

We call this hearing, the War on Western Jobs.

Because that is what our constituents back home feel is happening to them from policies coming out of this Administration

Here are the facts.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Western United States reported the highest regional jobless rate in May, at 10.9 percent.

Nevada reported the highest unemployment rate among all fifty states, at 14.0 percent in May.

The Administration promised the stimulus package would keep unemployment below 8 percent.

The stimulus expanded the size of government,  
But it failed to deliver the promised jobs.

Families and businesses throughout the West are struggling to make ends meet.

This Administration's anti-business, anti-multiple use agenda threatens Western communities.

It is killing jobs and undermining state and local budgets.

Washington needs to help or get of the way.

When people heard Presidential candidate Obama say he was going to regulate coal out of existence,

When they see President Obama

- Propose massive energy taxes through cap and trade

- use the National Environmental Policy Act as a climate change tool to block energy development in the West

Then they know that their jobs,

and their way of life,

are under siege.

I've just returned from a week in Wyoming listening to the people. I go home to Wyoming every weekend.

I continue to hear about anti-business policies that are burdening our small businesses and stopping economic recovery.

This is why we are here today.

We are here to make the case that there is a War on Western Jobs being waged by this Administration.

For the record, we did invite Interior Secretary Salazar to testify at this hearing to defend the Administration's policies.

It is unfortunate that he turned us down.

Thank you to the witnesses and the members who are here today.

I would now like to recognize Chairman Bishop of the Congressional Western Caucus.

[Chairman Bishop gives his opening remarks next.]